



# Recycle This! Newsletter

*Newsletter of the Maine State Planning Office, Waste Management & Recycling Program \* June 2004*

## Composting on the Rise in Maine:

### Compost Bin Sale: Campaign Highlights 2004

For the second year in a row, the Maine State Planning Office's Waste Management and Recycling Program has partnered with the Northeast Resource Recovery Association to make available compost bins for a nominal fee to municipalities and organizations to promote composting in the home. The 'Earth Machine' is manufactured from recycled materials by Norseman Plastics. Through the arrangements with the company bins must be sold in lots of 20. At first, this condition appeared to be troublesome; however as this year's campaign developed and approached the May 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline, it appeared that there was no problem.

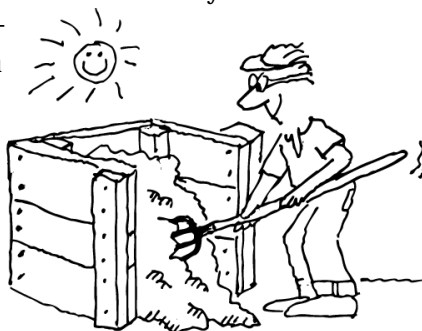
### Backyard Composting Helps Communities

The story is not in the bins but in the popularity. This year the State Planning Office coordinated the orders of more than 2600 compost bins – up over 300% from last year. Bins were sold to a wide variety of organizations and groups: such as the 100 that went to Bowdoin College in Brunswick; and communities such as Bath (180) and Cape Elizabeth (160). We tip our hats though to the Town of Sabattus for the support of their facility and the belief that composting will significantly reduce their waste stream. In their gesture, the town purchased 160 bins to be given away to the citizens of their community.

### Regional Cooperation Helps

The composting effort was also greatly supported by the regional planning commissions. Sherry Churchill at the Hancock County Planning Commission placed the largest order with a total of 200 bins.

In a similar effort,  
Sarah Flaks of the



Kennebec Valley Council of Governments assisted some of her communities by coordinating the purchase of 160 bins. At the Northern Maine Development Commission, Connie Bondeson put a different slant on the same objective by building 100 bins into her program to promote rural waste reduction through composting workshops in her area this year.

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## E-Waste Recycling Law Tops Short Legislative Session



This spring the legislature turned its attention to the toxic side of trash and certain common consumer products found in every home in Maine.

As the second act to the January 1, 2006 disposal ban passed last year, LD1892 (public law chapter 661) places most of the cost and responsibility for the proper management of computers and televisions on their manufacturers. There is no advanced recovery fee and no end of life fee in the law although municipalities and other entities are allowed to charge fees to cover their costs. Manufacturers are required to set up a management system that covers transportation and recycling from instate points of consolidation. Municipalities need only fund their local operations costs and transport to the instate consolidators. The Maine DEP is in the process of drafting the new rules to enforce and define certain aspects of the new law. To view a copy of LD 1892 on line go to:

[www.recyclemaine.com/hhw/electronics](http://www.recyclemaine.com/hhw/electronics)

Other laws of note:

**LD1806** (chapter law 567) requires State Planning to give preference to regions in all grants programs

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## Composting on the Rise in Maine

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### Composting a Coordinated Effort



Coordinating Maine's compost bin campaign was taken on by Rhonda Cartlidge of SPO's Waste Management and Recycling Program. Rhonda may be familiar to many who attended the MRRA conference or those of you who have visited the office. In many instances, Rhonda was able to identify communities with odd lots to make smaller or odd number orders happen. Through her efforts, the State Planning Office was joined by a few interested state employees from other agencies and also helped make compost bins available here at SPO for employees to compost food waste generated in house.

### Businesses Join in Composting

This may well be the year of composting in Maine. Following the success of the March Food Waste Symposium at Bowdoin College, Sam Morris of the State Planning Office and Mark King of the Department of Environmental Protection are working on regional workshops on commercial composting. As of this date Sam and Mark now are involved in projects in Farmington, Bar Harbor, and Machias with several others in the planning stage. Hopefully these efforts will have far reaching success in affecting the estimated 180,000 tons of food waste in our State's waste stream.

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## Two Recyclers Recognized for their Lifetime Contribution to Recycling

MRRA's John Albertini surprised the audience at this year's Maine Resource Recovery Association Conference with two awards for lifetime achievement going to Ferg Lea of Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments and George MacDonald of the State Planning Office. The testimonies to Ferg and George are in and of themselves stories of recycling in Maine.

Ferg Lea has been with AVCOG for more than twenty-five years advising the communities in Androscoggin, Oxford, and Franklin Counties. In that time, he has extended his expertise and professional commitment to the entire state.

The AVCOG offices with Ferg and Carol Fuller have

established a reputation for their contributions in their region, especially in waste management and recycling. Over the years, Ferg has served on the MRRA board and numerous subcommittees. He now serves as the chairman of the Association's education sub committee.

George MacDonald is currently the director of the State Planning Office's Community Assistance Team, which is comprised of the Code Enforcement Officers' Training, the Flood Plain Management, and the Waste Management and Recycling Programs. While at SPO, George has worked in almost every phase of the program, championed recycling throughout the State, as well as joining the Maine team of professionals to take their composting expertise to Australia a couple of years ago. George came to the SPO in 1997; however he is also recognized for his previous service in both public and private sector solid waste management programs. We extend our congratulations and appreciation to Ferg and George for their commitment to recycling.

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## E-Waste Recycling Law Tops Short Legislative Session

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**LD 1826** (chapter law 679) requires the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency to set up a system for the return and disposal of unused pharmaceuticals. They are to report back to the Legislature with their proposals by January 31, 2005.

**LD 1901** (chapter law 640) strengthens the Maine mercury thermostat recycling program by requiring all wholesalers who sell thermostats to provide recycling services for mercury thermostats.

**LD 1661** (chapter law 125) requires the Department of Environmental Protection to review the sale of button cell batteries that contain mercury.

**LD 1790** (chapter law 629) restricts the sale and distribution of products with brominated fire retardants by January 1, 2006. These are the common fire retardants in hundreds of household items.

For hard copies of all these laws or if you have questions or comments, please contact Sam Morris at [sam.morris@maine.gov](mailto:sam.morris@maine.gov) or Tom Miragliuolo at [tom.miragliuolo@maine.gov](mailto:tom.miragliuolo@maine.gov) or call 1-800-662-4545

# State Surplus Properties – Everybody's Swap Shop



*Trucks available at State Surplus*

When one considers that the state government of Maine is the largest employer in the State of Maine, they must realize that every problem facing every community and every business exists in enormous scale with each body that looks after providing the necessary services to the public. This is true of waste management, and in particular, the management of state surplus property. A model operation for the disposal of unwanted materials exists in the State Surplus Property Division of the Bureau of Purchases in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

**State Surplus Property  
Located at 85 Leighton Rd.**

**Augusta**

**Business hours**

**7:30-4:15, Monday through Friday**

**Telephone is 287-4586**

Regulated by 5 MRSA Ch.155 § 1811, Surplus Property is charged: "To transfer to or between state departments or agencies or educational institutions, or sell supplies, materials and equipment which are surplus, obsolete, or unused". Operating with what may be considered a necessary low profile to the general public, State Surplus has always attempted to maintain a visible presence with state agencies, municipalities, educational institutions and non-profits, which comprise its primary audience.

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Organizations that are eligible to use the State Surplus services, primarily state government agencies, municipal government entities – including schools, and qualifying non-profit agencies are issued a limited number of donee identification cards for control purposes. This permits the user to visit the facilities or sites where property is available for sale.



*Equipment available at State Surplus*

Periodically, the familiar call or notice of public auction brings the dedicated agency to the forefront however. Public auctions are conducted 5-6 times per year and property is available to donees at fixed prices prior to auctions. Typical items that can be obtained are: plow trucks, pickup trucks, sedans, police cruisers, snowmobiles, boats and miscellaneous Dept. of Transportation equipment.



The staff is also good about answering inquiries and even keeping shopping lists of the specific needs of some organizations. On a regular basis and occasionally in special situations where the project demands, auctions and sales are scheduled for the general public. Making every effort to make services understood and available, announcements and lists of items have been posted for the last few years on the agency's web site, [www.state.maine.us/purchase/surplus/surplus.htm](http://www.state.maine.us/purchase/surplus/surplus.htm)



*Surplus Computers waiting for their chance to be reused*

After years of operating out of abandoned state buildings, such as, the barn for the old Stevens School for Girls or AMHI's Campbell Barn, the agency has found a new home in a facility that was recently built for it at 85 Leighton Road in Augusta. The 25000 sf structure shares space with the State Central Warehouse – two agencies which are not meant to store items but to make materials available at reasonable cost where needed when needed.

State Surplus Properties Director, Andrew Vellani, manages a close staff of seven that have been together for several years. Considering the magnitude of some of the projects accomplished under the pressure of occasionally unusual time constraints by the staff, the agency performs its duties in a manner that can be admired by all those professionals in our field of waste management and recycling, as well as, being appreciated by every taxpayer.



*The staff picture from left to right; Seth Nichols, Michelle Woodard, Jason Couture, Andy Vellani (Mgr.), Ron Dishman, Carl LaFrance(Supv.), Michael Chase.*



*Federal Surplus Property*

Most recently, the agency was handed the responsibility of dismantling major sections of the old AMHI. This came after playing a key role in relocating several of the offices of the Department of Human Services. While the move of some of these DHS bureaus to their new facilities was taking place, the Maine Department of Transportation was given the go ahead to move from temporary facilities in Winthrop back to their renovated offices in Augusta.



*Maine Dept. of Transportation Retirees Await Auction*

Not to give the impression that their responsibility is only limited to the Capital area, one should consider that the closing of State Liquor Stores has been on-going throughout the year. This was in conjunction with the closing of the old Maine Youth Center in South Portland, which now has a new facility. Surplus Property has also been involved with the Clean State Initiative, and through a contract with Environ Services Inc., recycles thousands of pieces of Universal Waste focusing primarily on computer and electronic equipment.

Through it all, there are few agencies that can claim to be as helpful and pleasant a team as may be found with the State Surplus staff.

## Annual MRRA Conference Lures Recyclers to Rockport

On April 6 and 7, an inquisitive crowd attended workshops and exhibits presented at the Samoset Resort, Rockport. Returning to the familiar setting seemed to gather larger numbers than last year's event - despite one of the last snows of the season. Without checking the evaluation forms, the exit polls ranked the experience highly among those attending.

A high point again this year was the award ceremonies. In a little different format, the awards were spread over the two lunches and Monday night's dinner. In more familiar categories, the MRRA recognized the following: Best Manager, Allison McCrady of Norway-Paris Solid Waste; Best Operator/ Attendant, Scootch Potakin of St. George; Best Program, Freeport; Most Improved Program, West Gardiner; Composter of the Year, Ted Brown, Hannaford Bros.; Best Business Recycler of the Year, The Colony Hotel, Kennebunkport; and Outstanding Material Quality, Isleboro. The Volunteer of the Year will be recognized at a later date.

On the final day of the meeting, George MacDonald presented the Governor's Waste Reduction Awards on behalf of the governor. In the public sector, honors went to the Northern Maine Solid Waste Management Committee from Aroostook County. This group is pulled together by the Northern Maine Development Commission and meets monthly to discuss solid waste matters and concerns.



*Receiving the Governor's Waste Reduction Award for the Private Sector was: Oakley Jones, Coca Cola Bottling Co. (left) and Larry Pullen, Seltzer Rydholm, Inc. (center).*

The private sector award went to CocaCola Northeast and Seltzer and Rydholm, Inc. for their collaborative efforts in reuse and materials by each other. Following opportunities with the recent bottle bill changes, the two leading companies rose to the occasion to create a comingling agreement to benefit Maine's redemption centers, as well as implementing numerous waste reduction practices.

A special award was presented to FAME for their years of managing the recycling loan fund for small businesses before the fund fell prey to budget cuts. Even now however, they are able to find other sources to continue these efforts.



*Receiving the award for the "Northern Maine Solid Waste Management Committee" were: (from left to right): Dana Fowler, Presque Isle; Lou Pizuti, Maine DEP; Mark Draper, Tri-County; and Connie Bondeson, Northern Maine Development Commission.*



*Field Rider, Finance Authority of Maine's Business Assistance Program Director.*



**Maine State Planning Office  
Waste Management & Recycling Program  
38 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0038  
1-800-662-4545 or 207-287-8934  
www.recyclemaine.com**

## Because You Asked!



### **Mercury Added Products Disposal Ban Information:**

**Title 38 §1663.** After July 15, 2002, a business may not knowingly place a mercury-added product in solid waste for disposal in a solid waste disposal facility. This section may not be construed to affect existing laws, rules or regulations governing disposal of mercury-added products prior to July 15, 2002.

**Title 38 §1666.** Household hazardous waste exemption. A person who uses mercury-added products in that person's home is not subject to the provisions of section 1663 or 1664 until January 1, 2005 with respect to those products the person uses in that person's home and is not subject to fines or penalties for noncompliance with the provisions of section 1663 or 1664 with respect to those products.

### **CRT Disposal Ban Info:** (computers and TV's)

**Title 38 §1306:** 4. After January 1, 2006, a person may not dispose of a cathode ray tube in a solid waste disposal facility. This subsection may not be construed to affect existing laws, rules or regulations governing disposal of cathode ray tubes in effect prior to January 1, 2006.

**Business CRT Disposal Ban:** (In force now)  
According to DEP's Hazardous Waste Rules.

- 1) Lead is a Hazardous material
  - 2) CRT's have lead in them
  - 3) Business in Maine are not allowed to dispose of Hazardous material
- Therefore businesses are required to recycle used CRT's